

LESSON 6

INTRODUCTION TO FORCE DEPLOYMENT PLANNING AND EXECUTION (FDP&E)

“...that ability to project our military power anywhere in the world in overwhelming strength is crucial, not only to our security and prosperity, but also to the peace and stability of the entire world.”

—H.H. Shelton, General USA (Ret.)
Former Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff

Lesson Introduction

The purpose of force deployment planning is to identify all forces necessary for accomplishing the combatant commander's concept of operations and to phase them into the theater of operations. Force deployment planning is based on CJCS, Service, and USSOCCOM (for special operations) guidance and doctrine. Both guidance and doctrine consist of force requirements determination, force list development and refinement in light of force availability, and force shortfall identification and resolution.

The original task-assigning instrument, the Joint Strategic Capabilities Plan (JSCP) or other such directives, identify major combat forces. Tasks assigned in the Unified Command Plan (UCP) and Unified Action Armed Forces (UNAAF) generally use in-place forces already under the command of the regional combatant commander. Forces apportioned for use in making operation plans will be those projected to be available during the JSCP period at the level of mobilization specified for planning. CJCS approval is required when combatant-commander-initiated plans cannot be supported with apportioned resources. The combatant commander's strategic concept must clearly identify the principal combat forces required by the proposed concept of operations.

A total force list includes much more than just major combat troops. The most up-to-date guidance on combat and support capabilities and methods of employment is available in Service planning documents that are available from Service component headquarters. Therefore, each component command develops its own total force list composed of combat, combat support, and combat service support forces using Service-planning documents. Essential combat and support forces that are available for planning may also be listed in the applicable JSCP supplemental instructions.

Forces move from their home location to a specified destination in the theater. This movement involves planning by several echelons of command, possible stops at several en route intermediate locations, and a schedule constrained by a variety of operational requirements.

The operational forces of the Marine Corps maintain the ability to rapidly deploy to forward operating areas and can deploy, by a variety of means, amphibious ships,

strategic sealift, strategic airlift, and self-deploying organic aircraft. However, with the exception of forward-deployed MEUs, Marine forces will deploy as part of the larger Joint force in support of a combatant commander and will be required to plan and execute deployments that are fully integrated with those of other forces.

The MAGTF commander is responsible to the MARFOR component commander who has the authority to plan and execute deployment for Marine forces. While MARFOR commanders may be assisted by a variety of Marine Corps operational forces, the supporting establishment and external Marine Corps commands, these MARFOR commanders are the individuals responsible to the Joint force commander for deployment and employment of the MAGTF. MAGTF commanders, assisted by their staff and in conjunction with MARFOR planners, may have to organize the MAGTF's deployment in several movement groups and by using various modes of transportation based on lift constraints or mission requirements. Ultimately, however, the MAGTF commander will employ his MAGTF and meet the Joint force commander's operational and tactical requirements.

This lesson is designed to serve only as an introduction, while more in-depth information will be included in Course 8806A, Joint and Multinational Operations. In this course (8803A), we will briefly examine the makeup of FDP&E and provide a general overview of the Joint Deployment Process. We will also look at the essential considerations for deployment planning (forces and sustainment) as well as the responsibilities of the MARFOR and the MAGTF commanders during this process.

Student Requirements by Educational Objective

Requirement 1

Objective 1. Explain the purpose of force deployment, planning, and execution. [JPME Area 1(d), 2(a), 4(a)]

Objective 2. Examine the major considerations for deployment planning and execution in support of a Joint force at the operational level of war. [JPME Area 3(a)(c), 4(c)(e)]

View:

- DOCNET, *Deployment and Redeployment Operations* segment, "Introduction" and "Projecting the Joint Force." View the case study connected to "Projecting the Joint Force" (15 minutes). Refer to Joint Pub 3-35, *Joint Deployment and Redeployment Operations*, 7 September 1999, pp. I-1 to I-5 (stop at 4. The Role of Mobilization)

- Joint Deployment Training Center's, *Overview of the Joint Deployment Process Course*, "Introduction" segment; "Planning and Execution," the "Introduction" and "Execution" segments only (15 minutes)

It must be emphasized that those individuals who plan and execute force deployment are the same individuals who plan and execute the employment of the force. Employment of the force should drive the deployment of the force.

FDP&E is the application of operational procedures during deliberate and crisis action planning. It is the execution of those plans that supports the maneuver of forces and sustainment within a battlespace, based upon the concept for employment. MCDP 1-0, *Marine Corps Operations*, states:

While planning takes many forms, the Marine Corps engages in two basic categories of planning—force planning and operation planning. Both of these categories of planning impact on deployment. Force planning involves the activities necessary to recruit, train, educate, organize, equip, and provide forces. Operation planning involves the activities necessary to develop concepts, objectives, and tasks at all three levels of war—strategic, operational, and tactical. The Marine Corps integrates aspects of both categories of planning to ensure forces are prepared to deploy for immediate employment in a crisis. This integration is referred to as force deployment planning and execution.

Paramount in FDP&E is the understanding of command relationships and the implications these relationships can have on both force deployment and force employment. The command relationships must be specified and unambiguous, particularly when considering FDP&E.

Requirement 2

Objective 3. Understand the purpose of each of the four phases of the Joint Deployment Process. [JPME Area 2(a), 3(e), 4(a)(b)]

View:

- The Joint Deployment Training Center's, *Overview of the Joint Deployment Process Course*, "Phase I, II, III, and IV" segments only. Refer to Joint Pub 3-35, *Joint Deployment and Redeployment Operations*, 7 September 1999, pp. I-11 (start at c. The Deployment Process) to I-17 (stop at 7. Redeployment) (22 minutes)

Requirement 3

Objective 4. Develop an understanding of the Defense Transportation System. [JPME Area 1(a)]

Read:

- USTRANSCOM Handbook 24-2, 1 September 2000, pp. 1 to 4 (DTS Resources) (4 pages)

Requirement 4

Objective 5. Comprehend the roles and responsibilities of the Marine Corps component commander and his staff during force deployment planning and execution. [JPME Area 2(d), 3(a)]

Read:

- MCDP 1-0, *Marine Corps Operations*, 27 September 2001, pp. 4-10 to 4-18 (9 pages)

During deliberate or crisis action planning, the component commander is responsible for accomplishing the following tasks in support of deployment:

- Determines the force required to meet the combatant commander's requirement.
- Ensures that command relationships that maximize MAGTF capabilities are established.
- Provides planning guidance and letters of instruction to the MAGTF, supporting establishment, and Marine Corps Forces Reserve as needed to guide deployment and sustainment planning.
- Registers all force and sustainment requirements in the time-phased force and deployment data (TPFDD).
- Fills or sources sustainment requirements.
- Fills or sources force and sustainment shortfalls.
- Monitors the task organization and deployment preparations of the force and sustainment.
- Coordinates CONUS and overseas bases and stations deployment support to the MAGTF.
- Arranges for interservice and host-nation support agreements.
- Integrates deployment planning information with the combatant commander's plan for deployment and employment of the joint force.
- Develops necessary supporting plans and orders.

During deliberate or crisis action planning, the Marine Corps component commander, MAGTF commander, and their staffs accomplish the following tasks in support of deployment:

- Determine the task organization of the force required to accomplish the mission.
- Develop a concept of deployment for the Marine Corps forces that supports force closure and employment.
- Provide planning guidance and letters of instruction to the major subordinate commanders as needed to guide their deployment and sustainment planning.
- Determine force shortfalls.
- Determine sustainment requirements, shortfalls, and phasing.
- Determine host nation or other Service support requirements.
- Direct the preparation of embarkation and load plans.
- Determine the phasing of the assigned forces.
- Register all requirements in the TPFDD.
- Develop a supporting plan or order as required.
- Submit all requirements to the component commander.
- Monitor execution of the deployment plan.

The deployment plan is developed with the employment plan. To facilitate effective and efficient execution of the deployment, the MAGTF identifies requirements for support in the following:

- Personnel
- Movement
- Medical
- Supply
- Services
- Maintenance of nondeploying equipment left in garrison

To gain an appreciation for the volume of forces, equipment, and sustainment that deploys to a theater of operation, a review Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm is in order. Eventually, 92,000 Marines deployed to the Saudi theater of operations with five battalions of tanks, 10 battalions of artillery, two battalions of amphibious assault vehicles, and more than 200 light armored vehicles, not to mention the numerous fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft deploying into and out of the theater. The deployment of sustainment was even more impressive when considering that, for just ammunition alone, the ammunition supply point at Al Khanjar was 768 acres while the entire combat service support area at Al Khanjar was 11,280 acres and held 5 million gallons of POL. Even more amazing is the fact that the Joint Deployment Process was young and extremely immature in its development. TPFDDs were built virtually “on the fly” by hasty planners trying to develop employment plans that would be supported by deployment plans. Certainly, imperfection was the resulting experience, but between the tenacity of those working within the then-existing process and the allowance of time to slowly build forces, equipment, and sustainment on the Saudi Arabian peninsula, U.S. and coalition

forces deployed a sufficient number of combat and combat service support forces and equipment to accomplish the mission of the Commander, U.S. Central Command.

Lesson Summary

You will learn more about the Joint Deployment Process and how the time-phased force deployment data are integrated into FDP&E in Course 8806A. Suffice it to say, the effective and efficient deployment of forces from CONUS to the Joint Area of Operation (JOA) or from forward-operating bases to the JOA is crucial to providing the properly tailored force with the necessary sustainment in order to successfully prosecute either combat operations or operations other than war. As one can observe by using the Gulf War case study the U.S. deployed over 500,000 men and women to the Gulf region and countless numbers and types of equipment and weapons, not to mention the amount of sustainment that was deployed to support such numbers. The Joint Deployment Process has matured tremendously since the Gulf War and so has force deployment planning and execution, as evidenced by Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The lessons learned in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm have been the touchstones of change and development for processes and commands supporting the deployment of U.S. forces over the past decade.

JPME Summary

AREA 1					AREA 2				AREA 3					AREA 4					AREA 5			
A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D	E	A	B	C	D
X			X		X			X	X		X		X	X	X	X		X				